JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION PERSONAL DATA QUESTIONNAIRE

Court, Position, and Seat # for which you are applying: Family Court, 5th Judicial Circuit, Seat 1

1. NAME:

Ms. Dorothy Mobley Jones

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

1701 Main Street, P. O. Box 192

Columbia, S.C. 29202

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

dionesi@sccourts.org

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

(office): (803) 576-1752

2. Date of Birth:

1952

Place of Birth:

Union

3. Are you a citizen of South Carolina? Yes

Have you been a resident of this state for at least the immediate past five years? Yes

- 5. Family Status: Divorced April 1994, Horry County Family Court.
 Dorothy Mobley Jones, moving party, one year separation. One child.
- 6. Have you served in the military? No.
- 7. List each college and law school you attended, including the dates of your attendance, the degrees you received, and if you left an institution without receiving a degree, the reason for your departure.
 - (a) University of South Carolina, 1970-74, B.A. Education;
 - (b) University of South Carolina School of Law, 1975-78, J.D.
- 8. List the states in which you have been admitted to practice law and the year of each admission. Also list any states in which you took the bar exam but were never admitted to the practice of law. If you took the bar exam more than once in any of the states listed, please indicate the number of times you took the exam in each state.

South Carolina, November 1978

- 9. List the significant activities in which you took part during your attendance at college, graduate, and law school. Give the dates you were involved in these activities and list any leadership positions you held.
 - (a) President's Honor Roll 1972-74;
 - (b) Delta Zeta sorority 1970;
 - (c) Sunday school teacher;
 - (d) Women In Law 1977;
 - (e) Phi Delta Phi 1978.
- 10. Describe your continuing legal or judicial education during the past five years. Include only the title and date of any continuing legal or judicial education course completed.

Conference/CLE Name

Date(s)

EXHIBIT

(a) Orientation School for New Family Court Judges

07/11/05

(b) Annual Judicial Conference 08/24/05

12/13/05



(c)	Hot Tips for Family Law Practitioners	09/23/05
(d)	Family law Section at S.C. Bar Convention	01/27/06
(e)	Family Court Judge's Conference	04/26/06
(f)	Mini Summit on Justice for Children	08/22/06
(g)	Annual Judicial Conference	08/23/06
(h)	Hot Tips for Family Law Practitioners	09/22/06
(i)	Family Court Bench/Bar Year End	12/01/06
(j)	Family law Section at S.C. Bar Convention	01/26/07
(k)	Seminar for Chief Administrative Judges	02/15/07
(1)	Children's Issues in Family Court	03/24/07
(m)	Family Court Bench/Bar Year End	12/07/07
(n)	Family Law Section at S.C. Bar Convention	01/25/08
(o)	Children's Issues in Family Court, speaker	03/20/08
(p)	Family Law Update	01/23/09
(q)	Family Court Judicial Conference	04/22/09
(r)	SCAJ Convention	08/06/09

- 11. Have you taught law-related courses or lectured at bar association conferences, educational institutions, or continuing legal or judicial education programs? If so, briefly describe each course or lecture. Yes.
 - (a) I planned and moderated the S.C. Bar Program entitled "Bench/Bar Year End CLE" held December 7, 2008; and
 - (b) I presented on the topic of children's issues at the S.C. Bar Program entitled "Children's Issues in Family Court" held on March 20, 2009; and
 - (c) I am a guest speaker at the Family Law CLE to be held in September 2009, on the topic on "Post Trial Motions"; and
 - (d) I am planning and moderating the S.C. Bar Program entitled "Bench/Bar Year End" CLE to be held on December 5, 2009.
- 12. List all published books and articles you have written and give citations and the dates of publication for each. None.
- 13. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice and list the dates of your admission. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require a special admission to practice.
 - (a) Admitted to practice, South Carolina Supreme Court, November 1978;
 - (b) Admitted to practice, U.S. District Court, January 17, 1980.
- 14. Describe chronologically your legal experience since graduation from law school and include a list of all law firms with which you have been associated. Describe the general character of your practice and divide it into periods with dates if its character has changed over the years.

From 1993 – February 2005, I was in practice with Lester and Jones, with our primary office located at 1716 Main Street, Columbia, S.C. 29201, practicing only in the area of family law. I was elected to serve on the family court bench in March 2005. Upon graduation from law school in 1978, I held the following positions:

- (a) Judicial law clerk to Hon. Rodney A. Peeples, August 1978- November 1979; During my employment, I assisted Judge Peeples with jury and non jury dockets; contacted attorneys for pre-trial conferences and trial appearances; researched legal issues and reviewed legal briefs submitted by attorneys; prepared Orders and jury charges and participated in law clerk seminars.
- (b) Yarborough, Fallon and Mobley, in Florence, S.C., November 1979 82; engaged in a general practice including civil and criminal practice, domestic, probate, Workers Compensation, unemployment hearings and magistrate court cases. Despite a general practice, I developed a strong interest in family law, to include adoptions, divorce, custody litigation, termination of parental rights and juvenile matters.
- (c) Baker, Purvis and Mobley, in Darlington, S.C., 1982 84; specialized in medical malpractice and products liability cases; also was actively involved in family law and tort practice.
- (d) Harvey L. Golden, P.A., in Columbia, S.C., 1984 January 1987; Specialized in family law, with an emphasis on complex marital litigation involving closely held corporations and division of medical practices and other professional businesses. Return to Columbia was based upon the death of my father and need to be closer to my aging mother.
- (e) Hearn and Corbett, in Myrtle Beach, S.C. January 1987 89; this firm merged into Van Osdell, Lester, Hearn, Britton and Martin. Relocation to Myrtle Beach was based upon marriage to Ronald K. Jones of Myrtle Beach. I primarily engaged in sophisticated matrimonial litigation and contested custody cases.
- (f) Dorothy Mobley Jones, 1990 –93, in Myrtle Beach, S.C., later merged with Lester and Jones, where I remained until February 2005 when elected to the Family Court bench. These years of practice were dedicated solely to the practice of family law. Our office was based in Columbia, S.,C. with satellite offices in Myrtle Beach and Beaufort, S.C.
- 15. What is your rating in Martindale-Hubbell?
 - Listed in 2004 without rating. Received recognition in Best Lawyers in America, 2005.
- 22. Have you ever held judicial office? If so, list the periods of your service, the courts involved, and whether you were elected or appointed. Describe the jurisdiction of each of the courts and note any limitations on the jurisdiction of each court.
 - Yes. Family Court, Fifth Judicial Circuit, Seat 1, February 2005 present.
- 23. If the answer to question 22 is yes, describe or list five of your most significant orders or opinions and give the citations if they were reported. Also list citations to any appellate review of these orders or opinions. (Copies of Order enclosed)
 - (a) <u>Crawford v. Crawford</u>, 04-DR-40-3419, Final Decree of Divorce;

- (b) Cannon v. Cannon, 04-DR-42-804, Final Decree of Divorce;
- (c) Butler v. Butler, 02-DR-40-2027, Final Decree of Divorce;
- (d) Tidd v. Tidd, 03-DR-42-4163, Final Decree of Divorce;
- (e) Hoover v. Hoover, 09-DR-40-1777, Temporary Order.
- 24. Have you ever held public office other than judicial office? Also, state whether or not you have timely filed your report with the State Ethics Commission during the period you held public office. If not, were you ever subject to a penalty? No. All reports were timely filed.
- 25. List all employment you had while serving as a judge (whether full-time or part-time, contractual or at will, consulting or otherwise) other than elected judicial office. Specify your dates of employment, employer, major job responsibilities, and supervisor. None.
- 26. Have you ever been an unsuccessful candidate for elective, judicial, or other public office? No.
- 27. Have you ever been engaged in any occupation, business, or profession other than the practice of law, teaching of law, or holding judicial or other public office?

Yes. Newberry High School, teacher, 1974 -75; Richardson Insurance, Myrtle Beach, S.C. 1989; as for law related teaching, Horry Georgetown Technical College, Conway, S.C. Paralegal Curriculum, Fall 1986; University of South Carolina Coastal Carolina College, Community law Course, October 1987.

- 28. Are you now an officer or director or involved in the management of any business enterprise? No.
- 29. A complete, current financial net worth statement was provided to the Commission.
- 30. Describe any financial arrangements or business relationships you have, or have had in the past, that could constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position you seek. Explain how you would resolve any potential conflict of interest. None.
- 31. Have you ever been arrested, charged, or held by federal, state, or other law enforcement authorities for violation or for suspicion of violation of any federal law or regulation, state law or regulation, or county or municipal law, regulation, or ordinance, or any other law, including another country's law? No.
- 32. Have you, to your knowledge, ever been under federal, state, or local investigation for possible violation of a criminal statute? No.
- 33. Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? Have you ever defaulted on a student loan? Have you ever filed for bankruptcy? No.
- 34. Have you ever been sued, either personally or professionally, that is, have you ever been named as defendant or respondent in any court of law?

Yes, once in the late 1980's I was awarded an attorney fee judgment and at the time of sale of a parcel of real estate, my lien against the property

- resulted in my being named as a Defendant. It was not adversarial in nature and the obligation was discharged, resulting in my receipt of a portion of the fee award.
- 36. Are you now or have you ever been employed as a "lobbyist," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(13), or have you acted in the capacity of a "lobbyist's principal," as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(14)? No.
- 37. Since filing with the Commission your letter of intent to run for judicial office, have you accepted lodging, transportation, entertainment, food, meals, beverages, money, or any other thing of value as defined by S.C. Code § 2-17-10(1) from a lobbyist or lobbyist's principal? No.
- 38. S.C. Code § 8-13-700 provides, in part, that "[n]o public official, public member, or public employee may knowingly use his official office, membership, or employment to obtain an economic interest for himself, a member of his immediate family, an individual with whom he is associated, or a business with which he is associated." Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions. None.
- 39. S.C. Code § 8-13-765 provides, in part, that "[n]o person may use government personnel, equipment, materials, or an office building in an election campaign." Please detail any knowledge you have of any formal charges or informal allegations against you or any other candidate for violations of these provisions. None.
- 40. Itemize (by amount, type, and date) all expenditures, other than those for travel and room and board, made by you, or on your behalf in furtherance of your candidacy for the position you seek. None.
- 41. List the amount and recipient of all contributions made by you or on your behalf to members of the General Assembly since the announcement of your intent to seek election to a judgeship. None.
- 42. Have you directly or indirectly requested the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? Have you received the assurance of any public official or public employee that they will seek the pledge of any member of the General Assembly as to your election for the position for which you are being screened? No.
- 43. Have you requested a friend or colleague to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf? Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf? No.
- 44. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf solicited or collected funds to aid in the promotion of your candidacy? No.
- 45. Have you or has anyone acting on your behalf contacted members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission about your candidacy or intention to become a candidate? No.

- 46. List all bar associations and professional organizations of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices you have held in such groups.
 - (a) South Carolina Bar Association- past chair of the Family Law Executive Committee;
 - (b) Richland County Bar Association.
- 47. List all civic, charitable, educational, social, and fraternal organizations of which you are or have been a member during the past five years and include any offices held in such a group, any professional honors, awards, or other forms of recognition received and not listed elsewhere. None.
- 48. Provide any other information that may reflect positively or negatively on your candidacy, or which you believe should be disclosed in connection with consideration of you for nomination for the position you seek.

While serving as a family court judge, I have been asked to sit on the following cases on other courts:

- (a) <u>State v. Danny Orlando Wharton;</u> S.C. Supreme Court; December 3, 2008:
- (b) <u>State v. Rorey Jamar Johnson;</u> S.C. Supreme Court; November 14, 2007;
- (c) <u>Joseph H. Moore, M. N. Weinberg, Jr, and Weinberg and Brown LLP,</u> S.C. Supreme Court; May 27, 2009;
- (d) Auto-Owners v. Rhodes; S. C. Court of Appeals, June 10, 2009.

While serving as a family court judge, I have been appointed to serve on the Commission for the Profession and on the Children's Task Force committees.

As a practicing attorney, I served on the following committees:

- (a) SC Bar Joint Commission on ADR/Family Court;
- (b) SC Bar Judicial Qualifications Committee;
- (c) SC Bar Committee on Specialization of Family Law;
- (d) SC Bar Long Range Planning Committee;
- (e) SC Bar Amicus Curie Committee;
- (f) SC Bar Pro Bono Program;
- (g) SC Family Law Executive Committee.

As a practicing attorney, I lectured, moderated and/or coordinated approximately 28 CLE Seminars related to family law, starting in 1988 and continuing through 2003. These are listed in my application filed in 2005.

As a family court judge, I have continued to lecture, moderate and plan CLE Seminars related to family law.

For two consecutive years, I served as Chief Administrative Judge for Richland County, Fifth Judicial Circuit, and approximately one year for Kershaw County.

- 49. References:
 - (a) Cynthia Graham Howe P.O. Box 1236 Conway, SC 29528 (843) 915-5310

- (b) Alison Rapp
 BB&T
 6098 Garners Ferry Rd
 Columbia, SC 29209
 (803) 251-1635
- (c) Mary Eleanor Eaddy 328 Wild Dunes Trail Myrtle Beach, SC 29572 (843) 997-1212
- (d) George Hearn 1206 Third Ave. Conway, SC 29526 (843) 248-3172
- (e) Ken H. Lester 1901 Gadsden St. Columbia, SC 29201 (803) 252-4700

YOUR SIGNATURE WILL BE HELD TO CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF ANY PROCEEDING BEFORE A GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE OR ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING YOUR CREDIT.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT MY ANSWERS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

Signature:

Dorothy Mobley Jones

Date:

8/12/09



State of South Carolina The Family Court of the Fifth Judicial Circuit

Dorothy Mobley Jones
Judge

Post Office Box 192 1701 Main Street Columbia, SC 29202 Phone: (803) 576-1752 Fax: (803) 576-1755

djonesj@sccourts.org

September 10, 2009

Jane O. Shuler, Chief Counsel Judicial Merit Selection Commission 102 Gressette Building P. O. Box 142 Columbia, S.C. 29209

Re: Personal Reference Data Questionnaire Dorothy Mobley Jones

Dear Mrs. Shuler,

Please accept this correspondence as a request to amend my Personal Data Questionnaire, specifically #49 (b) and (d) to reflect substitution of my personal references as follows:

- (b) Michael Sherk, BB&T, 2619 Oak Street, Myrtle Beach, S.C. 29577 for Alison Rapp, BB&T, 6098 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, S.C.; and
- (d) Samer G. Touma, PhD., 2113 Adams Grove, Columbia, S.C. 29203 for George M. Hearn, Jr.

Enclosed is the Amended Personal Data Questionnaire form with the foregoing substitutions along with addresses and telephone numbers.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance in this matter.

With kind regards, I am

Oprothy Mobley/Jones

DMJ/dmj

JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION Sworn Statement to be included in Transcript of Public Hearings

Family Court (Incumbent)

Full Name:

Dorothy Mobley Jones

Business Address:

1701 Main Street, P. O. Box 192

Columbia, S.C. 29202

Business Telephone:

(803) 576-1752

- 1. Why do you want to serve another term as a Family Court Judge? My law practice spanned in excess of twenty five years, however, as a family court judge, I am in a better position to serve the citizens of this state. For the past five years, I have used the knowledge, skills and experiences gained from years of family court litigation to assist litigants with important and life changing decisions. Through the many years of private practice, I also gained compassion and a thorough understanding of the far reaching impact that our court has on the citizens of this state. I now have an opportunity to touch the lives of juveniles and play a role in their development as responsible citizens. To serve on this bench is rewarding and a privilege.
- 2. Do you plan to serve your full term if re-elected? Yes.
- 3. Do you have any plans to return to private practice one day? No.
- 4. Have you met the statutory requirements for this position regarding age, residence, and years of practice? Yes.
- What is your philosophy regarding ex parte communications? 5. there circumstances under which you could envision ex parte communications being tolerated? Ex parte communications should be avoided as it raises the appearance of impropriety. My office has procedures which are strictly enforced to discourage and prevent any ex parte communication whether by attorneys, litigants or relatives of litigants. Nonetheless, there are situations where judges are called upon to review pleadings and/or written requests for ex parte relief. It is important for a judge reviewing the materials to avoid any direct contact with the moving party other than a review of the documentation. On extremely rare occasions, relief may be appropriate to consider on an ex parte basis, however, such relief should be limited in nature so as not to unduly prejudice the opposing party. In such case, the ex parte request should be scheduled for a hearing on an expedited basis to allow the opposing party to put forth his or her factual basis for relief without delay.
- 6. What is your philosophy on recusal, especially in situations in which lawyer-legislators, former associates, or law partners are to appear before you? I do not disqualify myself from hearing cases in which a

lawyer-legislator appears on behalf of a litigant. I have disqualified myself from hearing disputed cases when my former law partner represents one of the party-litigants. On occasions when there have been bona fide conflicts, I have voluntarily disclosed the nature of the conflict on the record. When a motion for disqualification has been made, I have given that motion due deference. In situations where the litigants have waived the conflict, I have heard the case as it is possible for litigants to waive a potential conflict. It is my policy to ensure litigants believe their cases are tried by an impartial judge and in a fair manner.

- 7. If you disclosed something that had the appearance of bias, but you believed it would not actually prejudice your impartiality, what deference would you give a party that requested your recusal? Would you grant such a motion? Under the above stated facts, I would give great deference to the requesting litigant's motion for recusal. It is the litigant's perception that must be considered. If the litigant believes he or she cannot receive a fair and impartial trial, recusal should be granted. I would immediately disqualify myself from the case and make every effort to have it transferred to another judge. I would also confer with the Chief Administrative Judge to avoid any undue delay in rescheduling the hearing.
- 8. How do you handle the appearance of impropriety because of the financial or social involvement of your spouse or a close relative? This has not been a problem for me as I do not have a spouse, however, I would disclose on the record the financial or social involvement which could result in a potential conflict. If, in fact, a spouse or close relative had such an involvement or interest, it would appear likely that disqualification would result. On the other hand should all litigants and attorneys waive the conflict, I would consider whether or not I could proceed without bias. In the event the case is not contested and is merely approval of a settlement or uncontested divorce, I do not believe the conflict would be as significant as if the case was highly contested. I would be concerned with the perception of the litigants and give due deference to their concerns.
- 9. What standards have you set for yourself regarding the acceptance of gifts or social hospitality? I do not accept gifts or social hospitality from lawyers appearing before me. I do have family members who are attorneys and a few close friends who do not appear before me that I socialize with and exchange birthday or Christmas gifts. These few are treated as family members and I would never hear their cases. I accept and report complimentary registration and lodging from S.C. Bar Association and SCAJ, which is offered to all members of the state judiciary. I attend local and state Bar association functions where other judges are in attendance. I frequently socialize with other

- judges, however, it is my policy to avoid acceptance of gifts or payments toward meals and/or entertainment.
- 10. How do you handle a situation in which you became aware of misconduct of a lawyer or of a fellow judge? The Canons of Professional Conduct address the method for reporting misconduct of attorneys and that related to members of the judiciary. I would be compelled to follow the directives of Canon 3, subsection D, of the Code of Judicial Conduct which sets out the method of reporting misconduct of a judge and/or attorney. The Office of Disciplinary Counsel would address attorney misconduct and the Commission on Judicial Conduct would address judicial misconduct.
- 11. Are you affiliated with any political parties, boards or commissions which, if you were re-elected, would need to be re-evaluated? No.
- 12. Do you have any business activities that you have remained involved with since your election to the bench? No.
- Since family court judges do not have law clerks, how do you handle 13. the drafting of orders? When ruling from the bench, I request that one of the attorneys prepare a proposed draft and present it to the opposing attorney for review and comment. Once both or all approve of the Order, an original with attached copies is mailed or delivered for my signing. In the event of a dispute regarding the language, a post trial conference is held and/or a form letter requesting a copy of the transcript is sent to the attorneys. When cases are taken under advisement, written rulings are set out in memorandums and delivered in the same manner to all attorneys and/or pro se litigants. Whenever both litigants are pro se, I often prepare the Order in the courtroom and provide copies at the conclusion of the hearing provided the issues are uncontested. There have been cases where I prepared the Order or modified it after receipt from the attorneys via e-mail. There are no ex parte communications regarding the rulings.
- 14. What methods do you use to ensure that you and your staff meet deadlines? My office utilizes several methods to track deadlines. It starts with marking our daily docket and identifying those cases taken under advisement or awaiting orders. This information is entered into a tickler system in our office computer along with other identifying information and deadlines. Additionally, the individual case note sheets are updated as orders are received and signed. Deadlines for those cases are monitored on a weekly basis via the tickler system and letters/faxes are then sent to attorneys who are delinquent in sending orders. We cross reference the note sheets and dockets with the information in our tickler system for more accurate tracking of orders on a biweekly basis. Each month a MUA report is forwarded to Court Administration based upon internal reports. Presently, I do not

- have an assistant due to the hiring freeze and am in the process of developing alternative methods to ensure compliance.
- What specific actions or steps do you take to ensure that the 15. guidelines of the Guardian Ad Litem statutes are followed during the pendency of a case? At the outset of a case involving a minor child, I issue an Order appointing a Guardian ad litem. This Order includes statutory authority for the appointment along with specific responsibilities and duties to be undertaken during the pendency of the case. As well, a reasonable hourly rate and fee cap is designated in the Order. The fee cap may be raised by the court as needed. In the event I hear the temporary motion, then a Pendente Lite Order is issued which generally contains time limitations within which the Guardian ad litem is to conduct a preliminary investigation and render a report. Thereafter, pre-trials are held in our judicial circuit at which time the Chief Administrative Judge will review the status of the case as well as the work completed by the Guardian. The pre-trial hearing allows counsel and the Guardian to discuss what further work needs to be undertaken prior to the merits hearing. This forum also allows an opportunity for any concerns regarding the Guardian to be addressed. Because litigants are required to accompany their attorneys to the courthouse for the pre-trial hearing, it affords them an opportunity to update the Guardian or make any additional requests. It is not the duty of a family court judge to monitor the Guardian ad litem, however, the Chief Administrative Judge is able to ensure compliance with the statutes through pre-trial conferences. **During** my two years as Chief Administrative Judge, I included specific deadlines for the final report in the Pre-Trial Order before setting the case for trial. Most of our Guardians are well versed in the guidelines and our Court encourages service by those who are qualified and trained to serve in this capacity.
- 16. What is your philosophy on "judicial activism," and what effect should judges have in setting or promoting public policy? I do not favor "judicial activism" and believe the legislature is the appropriate body to set public policy. Our job is to enforce and interpret the policies as set by the legislature. I would never consider it appropriate for a judge to legislate from the bench.
- 17. Canon 4 allows a judge to engage in activities to improve the law, legal system, and administration of justice. What activities do you plan to undertake to further this improvement of the legal system? I have continued to plan, moderate and participate in CLE Seminars sponsored by the S.C. Bar Association. Since serving on the family court bench, I have been appointed to serve on several committees including the Children's Task Force and the Commission on the Profession. Through my involvement with the S.C. Bar and service on

- these professional committees, I am able to contribute to issues of importance and interest to the bench and bar.
- 18. Do you feel that the pressure of serving as a judge strains personal relationships (i.e. spouse, children, friends, or relatives)? How do you address this? No, I do not believe the pressure of serving as a judge strains personal relationships. It is true judges are held to a higher standard of conduct but in my personal situation, it has not created any undue strain. Most of my close friends are judges who also adhere to a higher standard of conduct for themselves.
- 19. Are you involved in any active investments from which you derive additional income that might impair your appearance of impartiality? No.
- 20. Would you hear a case where you or a member of your family held a de minimis financial interest in a party involved? I would disclose the nature of the interest on the record prior to the hearing. Certainly, upon motion and after due consideration, I would disqualify myself if it appeared that the circumstances may compromise the litigant's perception of a fair and impartial trial. Since these facts presume that the interest is held by a family member, it appears disqualification may be necessary, even in the absence of a motion for recusal. On the other hand, if the interest was insignificant in nature and relationship, and provided the litigants expressed a desire to waive that interest, I would consider proceeding with the hearing. It is imperative that litigants believe their case was handled in a fair and impartial manner. Whether or not the case was contested or a simple uncontested divorce/agreement would also have some bearing on the decision to proceed or disqualify.
- 21. Do you belong to any organizations that discriminate based on race, religion, or gender? No.
- 22. Have you met the mandatory minimum hours requirement for continuing legal education courses? Yes.
- 23. What do you feel is the appropriate demeanor for a judge? A judge should at all times appear to be competent, dignified, courteous and in control of the courtroom. A judge should avoid any show of prejudice or partiality toward litigants or attorneys. A judge should demonstrate through his or her conduct that each litigant's case is important notwithstanding how insignificant on the facts it may appear.
- 24. Do the rules that you expressed in your previous answer apply only while you are on the bench or in chambers, or do these rules apply seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day? The foregoing rules should apply at all times and are not limited to the judge's presence at the courthouse. Proper demeanor in keeping with the judgeship should be maintained under all circumstances.

- 25. Do you feel that it is ever appropriate to be angry with a member of the public, especially with a criminal defendant? Is anger ever appropriate in dealing with attorneys or a pro se litigant? Anger would not be an appropriate emotion to express with a member of the public, criminal defendant, attorney or *pro se* litigant. Dependent upon the conduct exhibited by a litigant, it may be acceptable to express disapproval of that conduct. Whenever a judge becomes frustrated or angry, stepping down from the bench to release those feelings in his or her private chambers would be the proper response.
- 26. How much money have you spent on your campaign? If it is over \$100, has that amount been reported to the House and Senate Ethics Committees? None.
- 27. While campaigning for this office, have you used judicial letterhead or the services of your staff for your campaign? No, with the sole exception of sending a letter of intent to seek reelection.
- 28. Have you sought or received the pledge of any legislator prior to this date? No.
- 29. Have you sought or been offered a conditional pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome of your screening? No.
- 30. Have you asked any third parties to contact members of the General Assembly on your behalf before the final and formal screening report has been released? No. Are you aware of any friends or colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on your behalf? No.
- 31. Have you contacted any members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission? No.
- 32. Are you familiar with the 48-hour rule, which prohibits a candidate from seeking pledges for 48 hours after the draft report has been submitted? Yes.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ANSWERS TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS ARE TRUE AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.

s/ Dorothy Mobley Jones

Sworn to before me this 12th day of August, 2009.

Notary Public for South Carolina

My commission expires: 02-13-2018